

1. The name of the Club shall be the 'KENT, SURREY AND SUSSEX LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB' and its objects shall be

- a) To encourage the maintenance of the Labrador Breed Standard.
- b) To promote Field Trials & Working Tests for the Breed and to provide facilities for training classes under experienced instruction.
- c) To run shows for the Breed.
- d) To organise lectures, films and social activities.
- e) To provide 'specials', confined to Labradors, for other shows and Gundog activities in the area..

2. The affairs of the Club will be conducted for the benefit of its members and will not be classed as a trading business. Any surplus funds, which have been generated from the various activities, will be maintained for the further promotion of the objects of the Club.

3. The Club shall consist of:

a) A Patron, President, Vice-President(s), Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Assistant Secretary, Hon Field Trial Secretary, Hon Working Test Secretary, Hon Treasurer and a committee of not more than fifteen Members. The Patron, President and Vice-President(s) shall be ex-officio Members of the Committee, but shall not have voting rights. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Assistant Secretary, Hon Field Trial Secretary, Hon Working Test Secretary and Hon Treasurer shall also be ex-officio Members of the Committee and shall have voting rights. The Committee shall be elected for a term of three years and one third shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. Five will form a quorum at Committee Meetings, one of whom must be the Chairman, Hon Secretary or Hon Treasurer. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Committee and may hold office during their pleasure. None of the above mentioned offices may be held by a person under the age of sixteen years

b) An unlimited number of members without any residential qualification, the names and addresses of whom shall be recorded by the Hon Secretary and be available for inspection if so requested by Members of the Club or by 'The Kennel Club'

4. The Officers and Committee for the current year shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All nominations for Officers and Committee shall be proposed and seconded only by fully paid up members of the Club, and shall be made in writing, together with nominee's signature indicating consent, and received by the Hon Secretary by post no later than fourteen clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The election of Officers and Committee shall be made by a ballot when there are more nominations than posts being filled. In all other instances the voting at meetings shall be by a show of hands, unless otherwise arranged. The Chairman shall have a casting vote, and whose ruling upon any matter shall be binding at the meeting. Voting at all meetings is restricted to those who are present and are fully paid up members of the Club. Should a position fall vacant during an elected term of office the Committee may, by co-opting a member if necessary, fill that vacancy and the incoming member shall complete the term of office. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

5. The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, together with a list of members and their addresses will be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

6. The Agenda for General Meetings will be available at the meeting and those members who require copies prior to the meeting must contact the Hon Secretary. In the case of Joint/Family Membership only those members whose names appeared on the Membership Application and subsequent Renewal Forms will be entitled to vote at these meetings. Also no person under the age of sixteen years will be entitled to vote.

7. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint and at least twenty eight days notice in writing shall be given to all members. The Annual General Meeting shall be held for the following purpose: To receive the report of the Committee and the audited Statement of Accounts for the last financial year, to elect the Officers and Committee, and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the Agenda, of which fourteen days prior notice in writing has been given to the Hon Secretary. No business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting, are urgent.

8. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Hon. Secretary within twenty eight days if requested to do so by the Committee, or on having received a written request that has been signed by at least six members. No business other than that matter on the Agenda may be discussed at a Special General Meeting. Ten members shall for a quorum at General Meetings, one of whom must be the Chairman, Hon Secretary or Hon Treasurer.

9. The Rules of the Club shall only be altered at the Annual or Special General Meetings, the notice of which must include details of the proposed changes. Any alterations to the Rules shall not be brought into force until they have been submitted to, and approved by the Kennel Club. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the following Annual General Meeting.

10. Any Member of the Committee, who also has been absent from three successive Meetings, shall have his/her attention drawn to the fact and unless a reasonable excuse be forthcoming the said member's seat may be declared vacant.

11. Candidates for Membership to this Club shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another in writing. The Committee will consider applications at Committee Meetings. Two or more negative votes will exclude.

12. Power of the Committee

In addition to the powers conferred on them by previous Rules, the Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for any special object and also to deal with any matter not provided in the Rules. Sub-committees shall be answerable to the main Committee and the Chairman of the Sub-committee shall be a member of the main Committee who will report the Sub-committee activities to the main Committee.

13. Membership, which shall run from January to December, shall be divided into three categories: Single, Joint/Family and Honorary. It is a condition for all types of membership that Members shall agree to their names and current addresses being forwarded to the Kennel Club as required. The Annual Subscriptions shall be such amount as agreed by members in General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club. The Committee may grant Honorary Membership for life or a shorter period as they may decide, and during this time such persons shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of fully paid up membership. No member whose subscription is not fully paid up shall be entitled to any privileges of membership. If the annual subscription for the renewal of membership is not fully paid up by 1st March the committee shall have the power to erase the name from the list of members. However, if all the arrears are subsequently paid the Committee shall have the power to restore the name to the Membership List.

14. Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j (5) and/or any Member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Society. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the meeting a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members, and that he/she may within two calendar months from the date of such meeting appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose. If the Club expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions the Club must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

15. No Member shall, at any event or gathering organised by the club or on behalf of the Club, carry out corrective or punitive treatment or treat a dog in such a way that, in the reasonable opinion of the Committee, could be described as harsh handling. This particularly applies to causing unnecessary pain or distress to a dog by physical abuse, using a lead to lift a dog so that its leg or legs are clear of the ground and suspending a dog by its ears. This list is not exhaustive.

16. The financial year of the club shall be from 1st January to 31st December. A banking account shall be held in the name of the Club and into which all revenue shall be paid, and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signature of two Officers one of whom shall be the Hon Treasurer. The accounts shall be kept by the Hon Treasurer and at each Annual General Meeting either one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience shall be appointed to certify the Club's accounts for the year prior to the next Annual General Meeting. The resulting Balance Sheet will be presented to the Annual General Meeting but will be available to members 14 days prior to the meeting upon request. All material and documents concerned with any financial aspect of the club must be retained for a further minimum period of five years after the financial year to which they relate, and then may only be disposed of with the specific permission of the Committee.

17. Each year, prior to the Annual General Meeting, there will be an agenda item at a suitable General Committee Meeting, to decide any contribution to expenses to be paid to the officers of the club, or others so deemed by the committee, A proposal for the amount/s to be paid, to each recipient, shall be put to the members for approval at the Annual General Meeting

18. All Cups, Trophies and Awards that have been donated to the club shall be deemed to be the sole property of the Club, and it is only under this condition that they will be accepted. The Officers and Committee shall make every effort to ensure that the wishes of the donors will be respected.

19. The management of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, which shall also have the power to make bye-laws and decide on matters not provided for by the Rules. However, the Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters.

20. The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee and in the event of the Club ceasing to exist, a Special General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of any assets. A final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months, and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the club on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Club.

21. The Kennel Club shall be the final Court of Appeal in all matters of dispute.

22. The Club shall not join any federation of Societies or Clubs without specific permission of the Kennel Club.

Revised 20th March 2011